

## Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 101339 TOSEC 040170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: NYTIMES ARTICLE

FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY ADAM CLYMER APPEARED IN NYT 20 APRIL:

BEGIN TEXT: SENATORS CAUTIOUS ON AN ARMS ACCORD - LEADERS  
WARN THAT CARTER VICTORY ON CANAL SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE HASTY  
DRIVE FOR SOVIET PACT.

SENATE LEADERS WARNED PRESIDENT CARTER TODAY AGAINST MOV-  
ING TOO FAST ON STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS DESPITE HIS  
SUCCESS ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES.

SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD OF WEST VIRGINIA, THE MAJORITY LEADER,  
SAID , "IT'S BETTER NOT TO HAVE ANY AGREEMENT THAN TO HAVE  
A BAD ONE, TO BRING A TREATY HERE AND HAVE IT REJECTED."  
AND HE INDICATED PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE SUBJECT,  
SAYING THAT ;"SOME SENATORS MAY BE HARDER TO CONVINCE  
THAN OTHERS, AND I MAY BE ONE OF THEM."

SENATOR HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., OF TENNESSEE, THE MINORITY  
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LEADER WHOSE WORK WITH MR. BYRD WAS ESSENTIAL TO GETTING  
THE CANAL TREATIES APPROVED, SAID "I THINK THERE'S A STRONG  
PROBABILITY THAT I'LL OPPOSE THE TREATY IF IT'S SUBMITTED  
AS I THINK IT WILL BE."

SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON OF CALIFORNIA, THE ASSISTANT DEMO-  
CRATIC LEADER, SPOKE AT A NEWS CONFERENCE OF THE "BUOYANT"  
FEELING AT A WHITE HOUSE BREAKFAST TODAY AFTER THE CANAL

VICTORY. BUT HE SAID A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO APPROVE AN ARMS TREATY, IF ONE WAS CONCLUDED WITH THE SOVIET UNION WOULD "BE IMPOSSIBLE THIS YEAR." AS TO NEXT YEAR, HE SAID, "I DON'T CONSIDER IT HOPELESS BUT I CONSIDER IT VERY, VERY TOUGH."

VALUE OF TACTICS DOUBTED - MR. BYRD AND MR. BAKER AGREED IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS THAT SEVERAL TACTICS USED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO WIN VOTES FOR THE CANAL TREATIES WOULD BE FAR LESS VALUABLE IF A STRATEGIC ARMS PACT WAS PRESENTED TO THE SENATE.

EACH OF THEM SAID THAT SOME SENATORS DID NOT CONSIDER THE CANAL TREATIES VERY IMPORTANT, AND THUS COULD BE SWAYED BY APPEALS TO HELP PRESIDENT CARTER AND STRENGTHEN HIS FOREIGN POLICY AUTHORITY BY TRADING ON UNRELATED ISSUES, OR BY MINOR AMENDMENTS.

MR. BYRD SAID ALL SENATORS WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT AN ARMS PACT DEALT WITH SOMETHING "ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO OUR SURVIVAL." MR. BAKER USING THE ACRONYM FOR STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, SAID "THERE WILL NOT BE A SINGLE SENATOR WHO THINKS THAT SALT WILL BE LESS THAN OF FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL IMPORTANCE."

MR. BYRD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE SENATE WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT BEING KEPT ADEQUATELY INFORMED, A VIEW EMPHASIZED IN ANOTHER INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR PAUL LAXALT, THE NEVADA REPUBLICAN WHO LED THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CANAL TREATIES.

CONSULTING IS SUGGESTED - MR. BYRD SAID, "I'M JUST NOT SURE THAT THE SENATE REALLY IS BEING KEPT ABREAST OF THIS TO THE EXTENT THEY SHOULD BE." MR. LAXALT WARNED, "THEY'D BETTER DO SOME FRONT-END CONSULTING WITH THE SENATE, AND PARTICULARLY WITH THE PROS," THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE SENATORS.

BUT ON THIS POINT, MR. BAKER DISAGREED, SAYING, "I WOULD GIVE THEM PRETTY GOOD MARKS" ON KEEPING KEY SENATORS INFORMED.

MR. BAKER, MR. BYRD AND OTHER SENATORS SAID THEY EXPECTED THE PUBLIC CLIMATE FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN ARMS TREATY TO BE LESS EMOTIONAL THAN WAS THE CASE ON THE CANAL ISSUE.

SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY, DEMOCRAT OF MASSACHUSETTS,

SAID HE FELT THERE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FROM THE  
GENERAL PUBLIC, A WILLINGNESS TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT THE  
BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT ON A COMPLICATED ARMS TREATY THAT  
WAS NOT PRESENT ON THE CANAL ISSUE. BUT HE OBSERVED  
THAT IN THE SENATE ITSELF THERE MIGHT BE LESS WILLING-  
NESS TO TRUST THE PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCES.

SEVERAL SENATORS, DECLINING TO BE QUOTED BY NAME, ALSO  
SAID THEY THOUGHT THE CHANCES OF APPROVAL OF AN ARMS  
TREATY MIGHT BE DIMINISHED BY SENATE CONCERN OVER THE  
ADMINISTRATION'S HANDLING OF PANAMANIAN OBJECTIONS TO  
TREATY PROVISIONS CONCERNING INTERVENTION. THEY SAID  
THEY FELT THEY HAD BEEN MISLED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.  
END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER  
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